ABSTRACT

OF THE

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF CANADA.

AT ITS SESSIONS AT KINGSTON, IN 1847.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SYNOD.

TORONTO:
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1847.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS OF SYNOD AND COMMITTEES,

FOR 1847.

Rev. John M. Roger, A.M., Peterboro' Moderator.

Rev. William Rintoul, A.M., Streetsville, Clerk and Convener of College Committee.

Rev. M. Y. Stark, A.M., Dundas, Rev. Ralph Robb, Hamilton, Joint Conveners of Home Mission Committee.

John Laidlaw, Esq., Toronto, Treasurer to Synod Fund.

John McMurrich, Esq., Toronto, Treasurer to College Fund.

Samuel Spreull, Esq., Toronto, Treasurer to Bursary Fund.

Daniel McNab, Esq., Hamilton, Treasurer to Home Mission Fund.

John Redpath, Esq., Montreal, Treasurer for Foreign and Jewish Missions of Free Church of Scotland, and President of Sustentation Board.

James Walker, Esq., Hamilton, Secretary to Sustentation Board.

W. P. McLaren, Esq., Hamilton, Treasurer to do.

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD AT KINGSTON.

SESSION I.

Session 1.

Kingston Brock-street Presbyterian Church,
Wednesday, 2nd June, 1847, Seven o'Clock, P.M.

Sermon by Mr. Bayne.

The Synod met, and heard sermon from Mr. John Bayne, Moderator, from Colossians ii., 9,—"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily"

The Synod was constituted for business with prayer, by the Moderator.

Presbytery Rolls were given in, and the Synod Roll was made up and read, and the Members present answered to their names.

[*The names of those who were present at this or any of the subsequent Sessions are marked with an asterisk. Certain changes, on the arrangement of names on the Roll, were made in the course of business. It is here given in the form it was ultimately agreed on. See Sessions II., XIV., and XVI.*]

Roll.

PRESBYTERY OF COBOURG.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS
James Douglass - -	Robert Seaton - - -	*(South) Cavan.*
*John M. Roger - -	*James Hamilton - -	*Peterboro and Cavan.*
*William Reid - - -	*William Litster - -	*Grafton and Colborne.*
Alexander Steele - -	- - - - - - - - -	*Darlington.*
*Robert Wallace - -	- - - - - - - - -	*Otonabee.*
———	Andrew Jeffrey - -	*Cobourg.*

William Reid, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF KINGSTON.

*Henry Gordon - - -	*Hon. John McDonald	*Gananoque.*
*James Rogers - - -	*Andrew Paterson - -	*Demorestville.*
*William Hamilton -	*Alexander McAlister-	*Picton.*
*Robert Reid - - -	*John Dickson, M.D. -	*Kingston, Brock Street.*
———	- - - - - - - -	*Newburgh.*
———	*James Stewart - -	*Kingston City Buildings.*
———	- - - - - - - -	*Belleville.*
———	- - - - - - - -	*Fredericksburgh.*

William Hamilton, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF BROCKVILLE.

MINISRERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*William Smart - -	George Macnish - -	*Brockville.*
Robert Boyd - - -	George Scott - - -	*Prescott.*
James Geggie - -	John Millar - - - -	*Edwardsburgh.*
*William J. McDowell	William Martin - -	*South Gower.*
*Alexander Luke - -	James Millar - - -	*Bellamyville.*

JAMES GEGGIE, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH.

*William G. Johnston	John Graham - - -	*Ramsay.*
James Finlay - - -	William Cuthbertson -	*Dalhousie and Sherbrooke.*
*William Lochead -	———	*Osgoode and Gloucester.*
*Thomas Wardrope -	John Durie - - - -	*Bytown.*
Andrew Melville - -	———	*Bristol.*
*John Corbett - - -	James Pritchard - -	*Gatineau.*
———	—— Ferguson - -	*Macnab.*
———	*Thomas Nicol - -	*Perth.*
———	*Neil Stewart - - -	*Beckwith.*
———	Duncan McKinlay -	*Middleton.*

THOMAS WARDROPE, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF MONTREAL.

John Clugston - - -	———	*Quebec.*
Daniel Clark - - -	———	*Indian Lands.*
David Black - - - -	———	*St. Therese.*
Thomas Henry - - -	———	*LaChute.*
*Simon C. Fraser - -	———	*Port Neuf.*
*William Leishman -	———	*Montreal, St. Gabriel St.*
*John Buchanan - -	*John Redpath - - -	*do. Cote Street.*
F. C., Deputy officiating Minister.		
*Walter McGilvray -	———	*Vankleek Hill & Lochiel.*
F. C., Deputy officiating Minister.		
John Fraser, ordained Missionary	———	*Cornwall and Martintown.*
———	———	*St. Eustache.*
———	———	*English River.*
———	———	*Beechridge.*

WILLIAM LEISHMAN, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF HAMILTON.

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
Andrew Ferrier, D.D.	John Mitchell - - -	*Caledonia.*
*Ralph Robb - - - -	*William McMillan -	*Hamilton.*
William Macalister -	———	*Port Sarnia.*
George Cheyne - -	John Colville - - -	*Saltfleet and Binbrook.*
Robert Lindsay - -	———	*Ayr.*
Mark Y. Stark - -	William Millar - -	*Dundas and Ancaster.*
Donald McKenzie - -	———	*Zorra.*
*John Bayne - - - -	*George Davidson - -	*Galt.*
*Angus Mackintosh -	———	*Thorold.*
*George Smellie - - -	James McBride - -	*Fergus.*
Daniel Allan - - -	———	*North Easthope.*
William Meldrum - -	———	*Puslinch.*
Robert Peden - - -	———	*Amherstburgh.*
William Graham - -	———	*Tuckersmith.*
John McKinnon - -	———	*St. Thomas.*
*Alexander McLean - -	———	*Wellington Square and Waterdown.*
Daniel Eastman - - -	———	*Grimsby.*
Jrmes Smith - - -	(without charge).	
———	———	*Niagara.*
———	———	*Aldboro.*
———	Robert Martin - -	*Guelph.*
———	Donald Fraser - -	*Williams.*
———	John Fraser - - -	*London.*
———	Andrew Smith - -	*Woodstock.*
———	———	*Ingersol.*
———	———	*Tilbury.*
———	Robert Sanderson -	*Flamboro West, 8th Con.*
———	———	*Woolwich.*
———	———	*Dunnville.*
———	———	*Walpole.*

MARK Y. STARK, *Presbytery Clerk.*

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO.

Robert Burns, D.D. -	———	*Toronto, Knox's Church.*
*William Rintoul - -	*Ephraim Steen - -	*Streetsville.*
Peter Gray - - - -	James Fraser - - -	*Norval and Esquesing.*
*James Harris - - -	(without charge).	

PRESBYTERY OF TORONTO (CONTINUED).

MINISTERS.	ELDERS.	CONGREGATIONS.
*Henry Esson, Professor, Knox's College.		
*Alexander Gale, Professor, and Principal of Toronto Academy.		
Thomas Wightman, Toronto Academy.		
———	———	*York Mills.*
———	———	*Markham.*
———	D. Campbell - - - -	*Vaughan and King.*
———	D. G. McKay - - -	*West Gwillimbury.*
———	———	*Thorah and Eldon.*
———	———	*Oro and Medonte.*
———	———	*Nottawasaga.*
———	———	*Mono.*
———	David Gibson - - -	*Caledon.*
———	———	*Acton and Nassagaweya.*
———	———	*Chinguacousy.*
———	———	*Humber and Weston.*
———	———	*Oakville and Trafalgar.*

PETER GRAY, Norval, *Presbytery Clerk.*

The election of a new Moderator deferred until the Session of to-morrow forenoon, on the ground that several members of Synod had not yet arrived in Kingston.

Rolls of Presbyteries.

A reference having been made to the Synod by the Clerk, respecting uniformity in the making up of the Rolls of the several Presbyteries, and the propriety of placing permanently on the Roll of the Presbytery of Toronto those Ministers not connected with charges who have during the past year been appointed to offices in Knox's College and the Toronto Academy.

The Synod appointed the following Committee :—

Mr. Roger, Convener ; Mr. Rogers, Mr. Reid, Mr. Smellie, Mr. McDowell, Ministers ; Mr. Steen, Mr. Litster, Elders ; to consider the matters in said reference, to recommend some uniform method of making up the Rolls of Presbyteries, and also to report as to the propriety of giving all Ministers in the College and Academy not already attached to the Presbytery of Toronto, a place in the Presbytery.

Committees

A Committee of Bills and Overtures appointed—also, Committees for revising the records of the several Presbyteries, and the records of the Synod and Commission.

Presbyteries to meet.

Presbyteries authorised to meet in Kingston for any competent business during the present sessions.

The Synod to meet to-morrow at 9, A. M., and devote one hour to devotional exercises.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures to meet at 10, and the Synod to be constituted for business at 11, A. M.

SESSION II.

KINGSTON CITY BUILDINGS,

Thursday, 3rd June—9, A. M.

The Synod met, and engaged in devotional exercises.

At 11, A. M., the Synod was constituted with prayer.

The Roll was called, and the names of members present marked.

Election of Moderator.

The Moderator called on the Synod to proceed to the election of a new Moderator. It was then moved by Mr. J. M. Roger, and seconded by Mr. James Rogers, that Mr. James Harris be elected Moderator for the ensuing year.

The Synod expressed their cordial approbation of the motion, but on Mr. Harris's earnest declinature of the appointment, on account of his health and other considerations, it was agreed that the motion should be withdrawn.

Mr. Gordon moved that Mr. William Smart be chosen Moderator. Mr. Smart requested that his name should be withdrawn on the ground of his infirm health. The motion was withdrawn accordingly.

It was then moved and seconded that Mr. John M. Roger be appointed Moderator. The motion was unanimously and cordially carried.

The Chair was then vacated by Mr. Bayne and taken by Mr. Roger.

Mr. Bayne's Sermon. On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed that Mr. Bayne be requested to allow the excellent sermon preached by him last night to be published. Mr. Bayne consented, and Mr. Smellie and Mr. Gordon were appointed to superintend the publication, it being understood that no charge shall be made on the Synod Fund on account of it.

Mr. M'Gilvray Deputy. Mr. Walter McGilvray, Minister of St. Jude's Church, Glasgow, deputy from the Free Church of Scotland, being present, was cordially and unanimously welcomed by the Synod, and invited to sit and deliberate during the present sessions.

A report from the Committee on the reference from the Clerk, respecting the Rolls of Presbyteries, was given in and read.

Resolution respecting Synod Roll. The Synod sustained the Report, and referred the recommendation in it respecting the admission into Presbyteries of Elders from Congregations not having Pastors, to the Committee on the Code of Discipline, and in terms of the other recommendations of the Report, resolved—that no general rule for the present be passed respecting the admission into Presbyteries of Ministers not in settled charges, but that each case shall be brought before the Synod through the Presbytery of the bounds, to be dealt with as the Synod shall see fit;—that Mr. Alexander Gale, Principal of the Toronto Academy, be received as a member of the Presbytery of Toronto;—and that the question as to the admission into the same Presbytery of Mr. Thomas Wightman, First Assistant Master in the aforesaid Academy, shall be considered in connexion with a reference from the Presbytery of Kingston, respecting his demission of his ministerial charge at Camden.

Committees. Committees were appointed on the Records of the Synod and Commission; on the Records of Presbyteries; on the Synod fund; for the appointing of Ministers to preach in Kingston and the neighbourhood on the next Lord's day.

The Synod agreed to meet this evening in Brock Street Church, to hear the Reports of Presbyteries on their Home Missions. Mr. McGilvray, Deputy from the Free Church, was requested to address the Synod and the congregation that may assemble.

SESSION III.

THURSDAY, 3*rd June*—3 *P.M.*

The Synod met and was constituted with prayer.

Report of the Committee on Bills and Overtures read.

In conformity with the recommendation of that Committee, it was agreed that the arrangement for business shall be as follows: The Synod to meet every morning at 9 o'clock; to spend an hour in devotional exercises; to meet at 10 for business and close at 1 P. M.; to meet at 3 P. M. and close at 6; and to meet in the evening at 7 or 7½, as circumstances may require, it being understood that at the forenoon meeting the Synod may sit in Committee or Committees, and that in the evening matters more generally interesting to the Christian community shall be taken up. **Hours for the meeting of Synod.**

The Committee on arranging for Ministers to preach in Kingston and neighbouring places on Sabbath next reported, and the Report was received and adopted. **Preaching on Sabbath.**

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee for preparing a letter to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland; it was reported that the letter had not yet been prepared. **Letter to Irish Church.**

The Synod appointed that a draft of such letter shall be prepared during the sessions of the Synod;—Mr. Bayne, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Reid, Ministers; Mr. Steen, Elder; to be a Committee for that purpose.

Mr. Bayne reported that he had not been able to prepare the Pastoral Letter. **Pastoral Letter.**

Mr. Gale, in behalf of the Committee on the Model Trust Deed, reported that the copy of a Model Trust Deed was still in the hands of legal Counsel, to whom it had been referred. **Model Trust Deed.**

The Synod reappointed the Committee, with instructions to hasten the finishing of the draft and issuing the same.

Mr. Smellie, in behalf of the Committee on a scheme of a Widow's Fund, reported progress. The Committee were instructed to report before the rising of the Synod, and Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Reid, Mr. Lochead, Ministers; Mr. McAlister, **Widows' fund.**

Dr. Dickson, Hon. John Macdonald, Elders; and James Walker, Esq., Secretary to the Sustentation Board, were added to the Committee.

Report on Visitations.

It was reported by the Clerk in absence of Dr. Burns, Convener of the Committee on Visitations, that the digest of the returns of visitations had not yet been completed.

The Synod reappointed the Committee, with instructions to have the digest finished and to submit the same to the first ordinary meeting of Commission.

Missionary Record.

Mr. Gale gave in a Report concerning the *Missionary Record*.

The Synod appointed the following Committee, viz.:—Mr. Gale, Convener; Mr. Robb, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Smellie, Mr. Rogers, Ministers; Mr. McMillan, Mr. Litster, Mr. McAlister, Elders; to consider what measures it may be necessary to adopt for increasing the circulation of the *Record*.

Students' Missionary Society.

The Synod received through the Committee of Bills and Overtures, a communication from Mr. Geo. Wardrope, Secretary of the Students' Missionary Society in Knox's College, respecting a Mission to the French Canadians, stating that the Society was ready to sustain one of its own members as a Missionary to that neglected class of our fellow subjects, and that one of them had now gone to Canada East to acquire the French language. Accompanying the said communication, there was transmitted a copy of the Regulations of said Society. Mr. Rintoul, as Convener of the College Committee, gave an account of the circumstances in which the projected Mission of the Students originated, and testified, as did also Mr. Gale, to the high qualifications as to scholarship and piety of Mr. John Black, the Student who had given himself to prepare for a Mission to the French Canadians. Several members expressed their views as to the great importance of the Church's engaging actively and zealously in Missionary labours to our benighted fellow subjects the French Canadians; when the following resolution was submitted to the Synod and adopted:—

That the Synod, highly approving of the excellent spirit manifested in reference to this matter by the Students of Knox's College, desire to give them every encouragement in their undertaking; and this Synod recognise the French Canadian population

as an important field of Missionary enterprise, and recommend it to the special attention of the Home Mission Committee. The Synod also having received from members of the Court connected with the College, highly satisfactory testimony as to the qualifications of Mr. Black, who has offered to devote himself to this work, would give him every encouragement to prosecute his studies with a view of labouring in this field. And the Synod would further recommend that Juvenile Missionary Societies be formed in the different congregations under their charge, with a view of exciting an interest in this Mission, and collecting funds for its support. The Synod further instruct their Home Mission Committee to charge themselves with the encouragement and supervision of the Students' Missionary Society of Knox's College, and all such Societies as may be formed in terms of the foregoing recommendations.

SESSION IV.

KINGSTON, BROCK STREET CHURCH,
Thursday, 3rd June—7½ P.M.

The Synod met and was constituted with praise and prayer.

Mr. Buchanan, Deputy.

Mr. John Buchanan, Minister at Bothwell, Deputy from the Free Church, and acting Minister in Cote Street Congregation, Montreal, was introduced to the Synod, and cordially welcomed.

Letter from Mr. Clugston.

The Clerk read a letter from Mr. Clugston, Quebec, stating that he was prevented from being present on account of ill-health; stating also that his people were about to have a special prayer meeting on account of the prevailing mortality amongst the immigrants, and that at that meeting, as well as the ordinary prayer meetings, the Synod would be specially remembered in prayer.

Overture on Home Missions.

The Synod received through the Committee of Bills and Overtures, an Overture for the remodelling of the Home Mission Scheme, with a view to the prosecution of Missionary operations throughout the land with greater vigour, unity, and efficiency. The Synod heard from all the Presbyteries, through their several Clerks or other members, reports respecting the extent of the destitution of ordinances in their several bounds, and the Missionary operations conducted therein for the past year.

Mr. McGilvray's Address.

Mr. McGilvray being called on, addressed the Synod and the congregation assembled on the interesting state of Glengary in respect to the awakened interest in behalf of divine ordinances happily existing amongst the people, and also on recent events in the history of the Free Church of Scotland, and the hopeful appearance of an advancement of true religion in Scotland.

The following resolution was then moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted:—

Thanks to Deputies.

That the Synod gladly avail themselves of this renewed occasion afforded them by the presence of Messrs. McGilvray and Buchanan, Deputies of the Free Church, of recording their sense of their great and manifold obligations to that Church for the exertions which she has made for the evangelization of this land, and for the invaluable assistance she has rendered to this Church in extending the Gospel to its distant stations and congregations; and they would specially tender their thanks to the before-mentioned Deputies for their attendance on the Synod, and the assistance received from them in the proceedings of this Court. And further, this Synod would earnestly and respectfully press it on the serious and prayerful consideration of these brethren, whether what they have already witnessed and known of the spiritual wants of this country and of the multitudes of our Presbyterian population, and especially of the Gaelic speaking portion of it destitute of Gospel ordinances, does not constitute a call in Providence to them to give themselves permanently to the work of the Lord in Canada.

Committee.

A Committee appointed to draft a series of resolutions for remodelling the Home Mission Scheme.

SESSION V.

KINGSTON, CITY BUILDINGS,
Friday, 4th June—9 *A.M.*

The Synod met for devotional exercises.

The Committee of Bills and Overtures met at 10 A. M., and thereafter the Synod was constituted with prayer by the Moderator.

The Report of the Committee of Bills and Overtures was read.

Presbytery of Montreal.

Mr. Leishman, as Clerk of the Presbytery of Montreal, reported that on the 27th of May last, when the Presbytery should have met by their own adjournment none of the members were in attendance except Mr. Buchanan, officiating Minister of Cote Street Church, and craved the Synod to have another meeting appointed. Mr. Leishman also requested that assessors might be appointed to meet with the members of the Presbytery of Montreal now present, on the ground that their number was so small. The Synod agreed to the application and appointed the Presbytery of Montreal to meet at Kingston in the interval of any of the present sessions of the Synod, and they also appointed Mr. Gale and Mr. Bayne assessors with the said Presbytery for the reasons stated by Mr. Leishman.

SESSION VI.

KINGSTON,
Friday, 4th June—4 *P.M.*

The Synod met and was constituted with prayer.

Sustentation Board's Report.

The Synod called for the Report of the Sustentation Board, when James Walker, Esq, Secretary, gave in a report, which was read—Mr. Walker was heard in illustration and support of the report. It was thereupon moved and seconded, and unanimously agreed to—That the report be received, and the cordial thanks of the Synod be tendered to James Walker, Esq., the Secretary thereof, for diligence and attention to the important charge committed to their trust.

Thanks to Mr. Walker.

Thanks were accordingly tendered by the Moderator to James Walker, Esq.

The Synod re-appointed the Sustentation Board.

The Synod took up the consideration of the Report of the Sustentation Board, when, after reasoning, the following resolutions were adopted:—

Resolution concerning Sustentation Scheme.

1st. That the Synod sanction, under existing circumstances, the limitation recommended by the Board as to the rate at which the deduction from the larger contributions to the Sustentation Fund are to be made.

2nd. That Presbyteries be enjoined to use their best exertions to induce all congregations within their bounds, and especially those calling Ministers for the first time, to place themselves upon the Sustentation Fund.

A resolusion respecting the sanctioning of charges was submitted, when, after discussion, it was agreed to resume the consideration of the same at the Forenoon Session of to-morrow.

It was agreed to meet in the evening in the Brock Street Church, to hear the report of the College Committee, and Mr. Buchanan, Deputy from the Free Church, was requested to address the Synod and congregation.

SESSION VII.

KINGSTON, BROCK STREET CHURCH,
Friday, 4th June—8 *P.M.*

The Synod met, and was constituted with praise and prayer.

Report of College Committee.

The Report of the College Committee was called for, and was read by Mr. Rintoul, Convener.

Mr. Buchanan, Deputy from the Free Church of Scotland, presented a motion, and addressed the Synod and congregation in connexion with it.

The motion was seconded by the Hon. John Macdonald, and unanimously carried. It is as follows :—

That the Synod, with the full recognition of their great unworthiness as a Council of the Church, and of the much unprofitableness and sin which attach to the several members thereof, and their congregations, are specially called on in the view of the success with which God has thus far crowned their efforts for educating the youths who have been led to devote

themselves to the Ministry, to acknowledge His grace and kindness to us as a Church, and to ascribe to Him the praise and glory.

Thanks to Convener, &c.

Mr. Robb moved that the report be received, and the thanks of the Synod tendered to the Convener and to the members of the Committee for the attention and care bestowed by them on important trust committed to them, and addressed the Synod in connexion with the motion. John Redpath, Esq, seconded the motion and addressed the meeting—it was unanimously carried: when the Moderator, in the name of the Synod, tendered thanks to Mr. Rintoul, the Convener, and the same were duly acknowledged.

Committee on Report.

It was then moved by Mr. Hamilton, who spoke in support of the motion, and seconded by Dr Dickson, and unanimously carried—That the Report be referred to the following members as a Committee to consider its various details, and to prepare a series of resolutions in regard to the same, to be submitted to the Synod at an early Session, viz.:—Mr. Rintoul, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Robb, Mr. Gale, Mr. Hamilton, Ministers ; and Hon. John Macdonald, John Redpath, Esq., Dr. Dickson, Mr. McMillan, Elders.

Grounds for thanksgiving.

Mr. Bayne called the attention of the Synod to the altered circumstances of the Church at the present time, especially as these are brought out in the College Report, from what they were when, on the tenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and forty four, and in the immediate neighbourhood of the present place of meeting, the Synod first met after the separation from the Body that continnues in connection with the Established Church of Scotland, and the grounds of thanksgiving to the great Head of the Church, for that change in our circumstances.—The Synod, thereupon, on Mr. Bayne's motion, unanimously agreed to offer up thanks to God.

A portion of the 72nd Psalm was sung, beginning with these words, " the city shall be flourishing," and Mr. Rintoul, on the call of the Moderator, offered up prayer and thanksgiving.

The Synod was closed with the blessing.

SESSION VIII.

KINGSTON CITY BUILDINGS,
Saturday, 5th June—9 *A. M.*

The Synod met for devotional exercises.

At 10 A. M. the Committee of Bills and Overtures met.

Thereafter the Synod was constituted, with prayer.

Letter from Mr. Boyd.

A letter was read from Mr. Boyd of Prescott, accounting for his absence on the ground of sickness in his family.

Sanctioning of Charges.

The Synod resumed the consideration of the resolution respecting the sanctioning of charges, when, after lengthened reasoning it was unanimously resolved :

That the Synod fully recognizing the necessity of the utmost caution in the sanctioning of charges and the settlement of ministers, refer the subject to the Committee on a Code of Discipline, to prepare a draft of a measure on the subject to be presented to the Synod during the present Session, and instruct the members of the said committee to meet and consult with members of Presbyteries, with the view of determining the vacant charges within their bounds that may be recommended for sanction at the present meeting of Synod.

Evening Meeting.

The Synod, considering that several brethren were about to leave town to preach in the neighbourhood to-morrow, agreed not to meet for business this afternoon, but to meet in the evening for special prayer for the revival and extension of the Church, and for its rising ministry.

SESSION IX.

KINGSTON,
Saturday, 5th June—8 *P. M.*

The Synod met and was constituted with praise and prayer.

Meeting for Prayer.

The Moderator called on several brethren, by whom supplications and intercessions were presented to the throne of grace.

At 10 o'clock the Synod closed with the Apostolical blessing.

SYNOD X.

KINGSTON,
Monday, 7th June—11 *A. M.*

The Synod met and was constituted with prayer.

Reports of Committees on Presbytery Records were received and sustained, and the Records attested in accordance with the recommendations of the several reports. **Records attested.**

The attention of the Synod having been called to the fact, that in one instance in a congregation in the Presbytery of Kingston, the ordination of Elders had been conducted by the laying on of hands :—The Synod appointed the following committee, viz : Mr. Bayne, (Convener), Mr. Robb, Mr. Smellie, Ministers, and Mr. Stewart, Elder, to meet with the Presbytery of Kingston, and ascertain to what extent this practice is observed within the bounds of that Presbytery, and to report on the subject. **Mode of Ordaining Elders.**

In accordance with the Report of the Committee, the Records of Synod were attested.

The Report on the Commission Records was received and sustained, and the Records were also read. The Moderator, in conformity with the recommendation of the Report, attested said Records, *cum hac notâ*, that the proceedings taken at the meetings, at Toronto on the 7th October, 1846, and the 4th day of February last, be confirmed, notwithstanding certain irregularities connected with said meetings. **Records of Commission.**

SESSION XI.

KINGSTON,
Monday, 7th June,—3 *P. M.*

The Synod was constituted with prayer.

An overture from the Presbytery of Kingston for an alteration of the amended act of last Synod, for the admission of Ministers and Preachers of other Churches was read. Mr. Robert Reid, **Alteration of Act for admission of Ministers.**

Mr. Hamilton, and Mr. Gordon from the Presbytery of Kingston, were heard in support of the overture. Various members expressed their views on the subject; when, on motion, made and seconded, the following deliverance was adopted :—

The Synod approve the overture in so far as it recommends the disallowing a reference to the Commission on the admission of Ministers and Preachers. And further enact and declare that henceforth all applications for admission shall be referred to the Synod. And in conformity with these provisions the Synod now further amend the original act for the admission of Ministers and Preachers, and adopt it as amended to the following tenor :—

Amended Act. That ministers and licentiates of churches strictly and intimately in connection with this church, and who shall have come in the way of orderly translation, or who shall have been expressly designated or commissioned as ministers or as missionaries, by such churches to this church, shall on application to any Presbytery and on producing the proper documentary evidence, be at once received and admitted as ministers and probationers of this church. And that in respect to all others making application to any Presbytery for admission into the church, and producing at the time of such application satisfactory testimonials of their good and regular standing in the churches with which they have previously been connected, they shall be dealt with as the Presbytery may see fit, in the way of private conference, examination, and hearing them preach, with a view of fully ascertaining their personal piety, soundness in the faith, their ministerial gifts and efficiency, and their prudence and propriety of deportment; and when the Presbytery shall deem it to be necessary for greater satifaction in regard to any or all of these points, they shall correspond with parties who may be able to communicate the information required as to the applicants; And that when the Presbytery shall have been fully satisfied, and are agreed to record their satisfaction;—they shall cause circular letters containing duly certified copies of such deliverance, with reference to the specific grounds of it, to be transmitted to the Synod Clerk, as also to the several other Presbyteries; that these Presbyteries shall record a deliverance thereon, and transmit a copy of such deliverance without delay to the Synod Clerk, who shall lay these documents before the Synod at the first stated meeting thereof; and in the event of the deliverance of Presbyteries being favourable, they shall hear the applicant preach, and if they deem it necessary, examine him, and if satisfied in the whole premises, shall record a deliverane to that

effect, and remit accordingly to the Presbytery within whose bounds the applicant resides, to receive him as a minister or probationer, according as the case may be, of this Church.

SESSION XII.

KINGSTON, *7th June,*

Monday, half-past Seven, P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted with prayer.

Mr. Reid laid on the table a Lithographed Map of Canada West, exhibiting the stations occupied by the Presbyterian Church, a present to the Synod from Mr. Thomas Alexander, late Minister at Cobourg. Map from Mr. Alexander.

The Map was received and committed to the Clerk to be kept with the books and papers of the Synod; and it was agreed to record an expression of thanks to Mr. Alexander for this gift.

The Synod proceeded to take up a reference from the Presbytery of Montreal, regarding a memorial from certain parties in Quebec, for the formation of a new congregation there. Signed J. Gibb, Chairman; J. S. Hossack, Secretary. Reference from Montreal Presbytery.

Mr. Hossack appeared in behalf of the memorialists, and asked permission to present a memorial addressed to the Moderator and Members of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, in Synod assembled, on the subject of the reference; permission was granted, and the memorial was laid on the table.

The Synod called for the papers in this case, when there were read: Extracts from the Minutes of the Presbytery of Montreal. Papers in case.

A petition from James Gibb, Esquire, and certain parties in Quebec, to the Rev. the Moderator and Members of the Presbytery of Montreal, craving the Presbytery to adopt measures for the organization of a second Presbyterian Congregation in Quebec, together with various relative papers.

A copy of statement of Mr. Clugston, made to the Presbytery of Montreal, 26th May, 1847, setting forth his views of the application made for the organization of a new congregation.

Also the memorial presented to the Synod in behalf of the original petitioners by Mr. Hossack.

Mr. Leishman, in behalf of the Presbytery of Montreal, stated that the difficulties and importance of the case, and the bearings which it has on the general interests of the Church, led the Presbytery to make this reference. The Synod sustained the reference and agreed to hear parties.

Parties.

No appearance was made for Mr. Clugston.

Mr. John Simpson Hossack, of Quebec, appeared for the memorialists, and addressed the Synod in their behalf, and gave explanations in answer to questions of members.

Parties being removed, various members addressed the house, when the following motion was submitted by Mr. Bayne, and seconded by Mr. Fraser.

Mr. Bayne's Motion.

The Synod having considered the reference from the Presbytery of Montreal with respect to the proposed erection of a new pastoral charge in Quebec, and having heard the statements of the parties concerned, find that it has not been satisfactorily shown that the erection of a new Pastoral charge is called for, by the existing wants of the Presbyterian population in Quebec who are either in connexion with the Synod, or likely to become so; but inasmuch as it appears that the congregation of St. John's Church are placed under disadvantages, and in particular that the extension of the congregation in proportion to the wants of the population is hindered by the smallness of the Church, and the inconvenience of the locality in which it is situated, recommend to the congregation to consider the propriety of taking steps for the erection of a new and more commodious Church, and in a more suitable locality, and remit to the Presbytery, along with Assessors to be appointed by the Synod to bring this recommendation formally before them, and in the meantime affectionately intreat the parties who have been taking measures for the erection of a separate charge to delay further action in the matter till the effect of this recommendation is apparent, and at the same time assure them that if it shall then appear that the erection of a new charge is called for, the Synod will be happy to co-operate with them for the accomplishment of their object.

It was also moved by Mr. Redpath, and seconded by Mr. McMillan,—

Mr Redpath's Motion.

That the Synod appoint Assessors to the Presbytery of Montreal, who, in connexion with the Presbytery, shall take evidence in Quebec regarding the whole merits of the case, and shall afterwards, in conjunction with the Presbytery, decide upon the prayer of the petition for the formation of a new congregation.

Vote.

After reasoning the Roll was called, and the votes marked, when there voted for Mr. Bayne's motion 6, for Mr. Redpath's motion 17; Mr. Redpath's motion was accordingly declared to be the judgment of the Synod.

The Synod appointed the Moderator, Mr. Robb, Mr. Reid, and Mr. Wardrope, Assessors with the Presbytery of Montreal, in carrying out the judgment of the Synod.

SESSION XIII.

Kingston,

Tuesday, 8th June,—9½ A. M.

The Synod engaged in devotional exercises, and thereafter was constituted for business.

Quebec case.

A Committee was appointed to prepare a draft of instructions to the Presbytery of Montreal, and assessors for their procedure in the case of the Memorialists in Quebec, and to report the draft to the Synod.

Case of Discipline, Montreal.

The Synod had transmitted, through the Committe of Bills and Overtures, a reference from the Presbytery of Montreal respecting two Memorials from various individuals, members or adherents to the Cote Street congregation, complaining of the actings of the session of said congregation in keeping back persons from communion with the church on the ground of trafficking in wine and spirituous liquors.

Mr. Leishman appeared for the Presbytery of Montreal, and read extracts from the minutes of Presbytery, also the Memo-

rials of the parties who brought the case before the Presbytery, also extracts from the minutes of the Session of Cote Street Church.—He stated that the Presbytery had referred the case *simpliciter* to the Synod, because of its importance to the whole Church.

The Synod sustained the reference, and as it involved a complaint against the Session of Montreal, it was agreed that the session should be sisted as a party.

Parties. Parties being called, no appearance was made for the memorialists.

Mr. Redpath appeared for the Session of Cote Street Church, and spoke at great length in explanation and defence of the Session.

Several members addressed the Synod. A motion was made by Mr. Gordon, and seconded by Mr. McLean, who severally spoke in support of the motion.

The hour of adjournment being come, it was agreed that the motion should lie on the table until the afternoon session.

SESSION XIV.

KINGSTON,
Tuesday, June 8th,—2½ P. M.

The Synod met and was constituted with prayer.

Treasurer to Synod Fund. Mr. Rintoul, in behalf of James Shaw, Esq., Treasurer to the Synod Fund, tendered his resignation of the Treasurership to that fund.—The Synod accepted Mr. Shaw's resignation, and it was agreed to record their thanks to Mr. Shaw for his faithful services to the Church in that office for the last two years.

John Laidlaw, Esq., of the House of Messrs. Henderson & Laidlaw, Toronto, was appointed Treasurer to the Synod.

Osgoode and Gloucester annexed to Perth Presbytery. The Synod received, through the Committee of Bills and Overtures, an overture for the transference of the congregations at Osgoode and Gloucester from the Presbytery of Brockville to that of Perth.

The Synod having considered the overture, agreed, in conformity with the recommendation of the Committee, to the transference, and the congregations at Osgoode and Gloucester are accordingly, transferred from the Presbytery of Brockville to the Presbytery of Perth.

Montreal case. The Synod resumed the consideration of the reference from the Presbytery of Montreal:

Mr. Gordon's motion was read, and is as follows:

Mr. Gordon's Motion. The Synod having considered the reference cordially approve of the efforts, which it appears from the records of Session, are being made by the office bearers of the congregation to secure purity and spirituality and a right standard of christian qualification in candidates for admission to the membership of the Church.

The Synod further approve of all right means being taken by Kirk Sessions to counteract every influence injurious to the Church, arising from the use of intoxicating drinks and the traffic in them.

The Synod encourage and earnestly recommend to this and all other Church Sessions to use all possible tenderness, prudence, and faithfulness, in dealing with applicants for admission to membership, wherever there appears anything in their callings or habits adverse to the glory of God, opposed to the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom, and detrimental to the prosperity of the congregation whose membership is claimed.

The Synod, at the same time, recommend, that instead of any general rule or special test being applied which might give, or seem to give, temperance, or any other branch of Christian duty, an undue or exclusive preeminence, each case should be dealt with on its own merits; and that in this view, wherever any difficulties may occur connected with the use of intoxicating liquors, or the traffic in them, the Synod recommend to Sessions carefully to investigate and put on Record the whole circumstances of each particular case, so that the grounds of their judgment in admitting or rejecting the candidate may clearly appear.

Mr. Bayne moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. McMillan:

Mr. Bayne's Motion.

The Synod having considered the reference from the Presbytery of Montreal, and heard the statements of the parties concerned, commend the zeal of the session of Cote Street congregation, and their efforts to promote purity of communion in the congregation under their care, affectionately urge upon them the importance of avoiding every thing which might have the least appearance of an arbitrary or capricious application of general rules in the exercise of discipline, more especially with reference to matters in which difference of opinion may exist, even among Christians, as to the line of distinction between what is lawful and what is unlawful, and enjoin upon them in such cases as then brought under the notice of Synod, to ground the rejection of applicants for admission to the privileges of the Church on the evidence of actual vice or unworthiness, in connection with the sale or use of intoxicating drinks; and further, the Synod resolve to appoint a Committee to prepare and issue a solemn warning to their people against the evils connected with the common sale of intoxicating drinks.

Vote.

After lengthened reasoning, it was agreed that the vote should be taken upon them, when the roll was called and the votes marked, and there voted for Mr. Gordon's motion, 15; for Mr. Bayne's amendment, 10.

Decision.

Mr. Gordon's motion was accordingly declared to be carried.

Dissent.

From this decision Mr. Bayne dissented, and craved that his reasons might be entered, and took instruments in the Clerk's hands. His request was granted, and the reasons are these:—

1st. Because the decision, in connection with the particular case, appears to give sanction to the principle that the sale of spirituous liquors is sinful and of itself a valid ground of exclusion from the privileges of the Church, and, 2nd: because it does not give special direction to the Session as to the principles on which it shall decide such cases as those referred to the Synod.

The following members gave in their adherence to the dissent with the reasons for the same, and took instruments,

viz., Mr. Gale, Mr. Robert Reid, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Mackintosh, Mr. Rintoul.

Mr. Leishman and Mr. McMillan also adhered to the same, and took instruments and were allowed to add this explanatory clause to the first reason, "that the principle referred to is inconsistent with the Word of God and the Standards of this Church."

Mr. Redpath, at his own request, was allowed extracts of the minutes and took instruments.

Resolutions respecting College.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee for drafting Resolutions founded on the statements and recommendations of the College Report, when a series of Resolutions was submitted by the Committee and read.

It was agreed to take up the consideration of these at the evening Session.

The Synod was closed with prayer.

SESSION XV.

KINGSTON,
Tuesday, 8th June,—7½, P.M.

The Synod met for business and was constituted with prayer.

Resolutions, &c., resumed.

The Synod resumed the consideration of the Resolutions on the College Report, and these having been considered *seriatim* and variously amended, were unanimously adopted. The tenour whereof follows:—

I. That the Report be printed in the *Record*, under the direction of the College Committee with all due despatch, and circulated as extensively as possible.

II. That the Synod acknowledge through a letter from the Moderator, to the Moderator of the General Assembly of the free Church of Scotland, the obligations under which this Church has been, anew

laid to the Free Church for the seasonable mission of the Rev. Robert McCorkle of St. Ninians, Scotland, as Professor of Divinity, during last session.

III. That the Synod record their sense of the obligations under which the Church has been laid to Mr. McCorkle for his valuable labours in various departments of instruction in the College, for last session, also to the Rev. William Rintoul, for his valuable services in the department of Hebrew and Biblical Criticism, and that the Moderator tender the thanks of the Synod to these brethren.

IV. That she Synod confirm the appointment of the Rev. Alexander Gale, Principal of the Academy, as Professor of Classical Literature in Knox's College.

V. That the Synod approve of the diligence of the College Committee, in regard to the establishment of the Academy, and record their purpose to countenance and encourage it.

VI. That the Synod, in conformity with the recommendation in the Report of the college Committee, and for the reasons set forth in the said Report, viz. the provisional union of the Professorship of Theology with the pastoral office, in the first appointment of Dr. Burns to the professorship,—the increase of students requiring the undivided services of a Professor in the department of theology—and the difficulty of obtaining one, who should be nominally or really, an associate or second Professor, resolve to separate, as they hereby do separate, the Professorship of Theology in Knox's College, from the Pastorship of the congregation of Knox's Church, Toronto; and declare, that the Professor who shall be appointed, shall, for the time at least, be sole Professor of Theology.

VII. That the Synod having respect to the many services rendered to the Presbyterian Church of Canada by Dr. Burns, especially his zeal and diligence in collecting books for the Library of the College, previous to his leaving his native land, his valuable prelections to the students of Theology and his watchfulness over their spiritual interests, for two successive sessions, shall record, as they now do, their sense of the great obligations to him, under which the whole Church has been brought, and tender him their grateful acknowledgments—the Synod, regretting that from the unlooked for absence of Dr. Burns from the Province, an opportunity has not been afforded of conferring with him respecting these arrangements; the urgency of the circumstances of the college requiring, that they should be gone into without delay.

VIII. That the Synod deeply regretting that their endeavours, heretofore, to procure a Professor of Theology, have been ineffectual,

shall depute a Minister of the Church, to proceed home without delay, and confer with the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, respecting the appointment of a Profeesor, and in concurrence with said Committee, to choose a fit and proper person to be Professor of Theology. The deputy to be instructed be the Synod's College Committee, as to the terms on which the appointment shall be made, and as to the other interests of the College in particular, and the Church in general, on which he shall confer with the Colonial Committee.

IX. That the Synod call on Mr. Bayne of Galt, to undertake this mission.

X. That the College Committee be authorised in terms of the recommenndation of the Report, to procure additional assistance in the work of teaching:—the deputy to confer with the Colonial Committee on this matter, and endeavour in concurrence wish them, to procure a suitable labourer for the departments requiring to be supplemented.

XI. That from the approximated estimate of the expenditure necessary for the College, during the year on which we are now entering, as well as arrears of last year, salaries of Professors and assistants, rent of College buildings, assistance to the Academy, extension of Library, expenses of deputy and incidentals, the Church would require to raise the sum of £1200—and that the Synod now, in dependence on Divine strength, engage to endeavour to raise this sum; and that for this object the College Committee are now instructed to issue an appeal to the whole Church, on this subject, and to call on such Ministers and other agents as they may see fit, to visit and address congregations and stations on the subject, and as far as practicable to bring the claims of the College before every member and adherent of the Church.

XII. That the synod approve and adopt the recommendation of the College Committe, for the government and direction of the College by a general Committee, who, shall have, at least, three stated meetings during the year, and an acting sub-committee, with such powers as they may see meet to delegate to them.

XIII. That the General Committee shall issue such interim regulations respecting the admission of students into the College, and the course of study to be pursued, especially, defining the qualifications and acquirements that shall be sought in all applicants for admission into any of the literary and philosophical classes, and into the Divinity Hall.

XIV. That the synod recognising the great importance of providing to the utmost, for the spiritual instruction of the youths in attendance on the Academy and College, authorise the College Committee to provide such special services for the students and pupils of the Academy, on the Lord's day, as they may see fit; such arrangement to be made in concurrence with the Presbytery of the bounds.

XV. That the College Committee shall have no power over the students in regard to the appointing them to the office of Catechist; but shall simply certify to Presbyteries, any whom they may deem fit for the office.

XVI. That in any matters not provided for in the foregoing resolutions, the Committee be left to a wise discretion and the counsel of the Commission.

XVII. That as Mr. Jas. Duncan, the Student sent us by the Free Church of Scotland, has, as has been certified by the Clerk of the Presbytery of Montreal, been pursuing his studies in Theology during the last winter under the direction of said Presbytery, and with the concurrence of the College Committee, he shall be regarded as having made the same progress in the curriculum as though he had attended the Winter Session at Knox's College.

Acknowledgment of Divine goodness.

The Synod in consideration of the unanimity and zeal with which the foregoing important resolutions on the subject of the College had been discussed and adopted, resolved that, at the close of this Session thanks should be tendered unto God for this token of his favour.

The Synod appointed the following committee for the government of the College for the ensuing year :—

College Committee.

The Moderator, Mr. Rintoul (Convener), Mr. Robb, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Stark, Mr. Cheyne, Mr. Reid, Mr. Smart, Mr. Boyd, Mr. McDowell Mr. Wardrope, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Lochead, Mr. Clugston, Mr. Leishman, Mr. Henry, Dr. Burns, Mr. Esson, Mr. Harris, Mr. Gray, Mr. Gale, Ministers : Mr. Jeffery, Mr. McAlister, Hon. John McDonald, Mr. James Hall, Dr. Robert Edmondson, Mr. Durie, Mr. Redpath, Mr. McMillan, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Burns, Mr. Steen, Mr. Frazer, Elders : John McMurrich, Esq., Gen. Treasurer, Samuel Spreull, Esq. Treasurer to the Bursary Fund : the first meting to be held i Kingston, to-morrow to appoint the sub-committee.

Mr. Bayne's mission.

The Synod in conformity with the ninth resolution in the College Report, called on Mr. Bayne, through the Moderator to undertake the Mission to the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland,—Mr. Bayne was persuaded to consent to the call.—The Synod agreed that at the devotional exercises of to-morrow morning, special supplications shall be offered up to God for His protection to Mr. Bayne on his mission, and for the guidance and direction of the Spirit of grace and wisdom to him and the Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, in their choice of men who may prove faithful and effective instructors of the rising ministry of this Church.

The Synod referred the supply of Mr. Bayne's pulpit, in his absence, to the Home Mission Committee.

Thanksgiving.

This Session was closed with prayer and thanksgiving to the great Head of the Church, for the unanimity and zeal with which the resolutions respecting the College had been passed.

SESSION XVI.

KINGSTON, *9th June,*
Wednesday, 9 *A. M.*

The Synod met and was constituted with praise and prayer qy the Moderator.

Prayer for Mr. Bayne's mission.

In conformity with the resolution of the Synod, at the Session of last evening, prayer was offered up in behalf of Mr. Bayne and the object for which he is about to proceed to Britain.

Mr. Robb lead in this exercise.

Answer to reasons of dissent.

Mr. Reid craved permission to give in an answer to the reasons of dissent given in by Mr. Bayne, and adhered to by others, from the decision of the Synod on the reference from the Presbytery of Montreal respecting the memorial from certain parties in Cote Street Church, Montreal. Permission was granted. The answer was read and is as follows :—

In answer to the reasons of dissent, it is hereby stated on the part of Mr. Reid and those adhering, that it is not intended by

the motion to declare the traffic in intoxicating drinks, as in itself, and in all cases, sinful; or to lay down any general rule, or to establish any general test of church membership, but merely that as in certain cases the traffic is directly connected with the spread of intemperance, and to be regarded as sinful; Sessions may, in such cases, deal with the individuals and exercise discipline, not on the simple ground of the individual's being engaged in the traffic, but on the ground of any circumstances connected with each case which are plainly contrary to the duty of professing Christians. In the case specially brought under the notice of the Synod, although it was stated in the Record of the Cote Street Session, that one of the memorialists was excluded on the ground of his selling intoxicating drinks; yet, in point of fact, it was stated to the Synod that he had been dealt with and rejected on the ground of special circumstances. It seems necessary to make this statement to guard the motion from misapprehension, and set forth clearly the object and intention of it.

Mr. Wardrope and Mr. Fraser, declared their concurrence in this answer.

Respecting resolutions on Home Mission.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee to whom the Overture respecting the prosecution of Home Missionary operations, the Report of the Home Missionary Committee, and the Overture for an Agent for the schemes of the Church had been referred.

The Report was given in by Mr. Gale, together with a series of Resolutions recommended for the adoption of the Synod.

The Report was received, and the Resolutions having been read and considered *seriatim*, and variously amended, were unanimously adopted.

The Resolutions are as follows:—

I. That the Synod adopt the following regulations, formerly issued by the Home Mission Committee, and recommend Presbyteries of the Church to use their best efforts, in conjunction with the Home Mission Committee of the Synod, to carry the same into effect within their several bounds.

1. *The Arrangement of the Missionary Field.*—The whole field of religious destitution, especially those Townships or Parishes which contain a considerable number of Presbyterians within their bounds, ought to be carefully considered by each Presbytery—and, according to the information derived from the several members or others, suitable localities ought to be deliberately chosen and fixed upon as Preaching Stations—these stations, including organized congregations that may be vacant, ought to be grouped together as Missionary Districts—and each of the districts thus formed ought to be placed under the superintendence of a Minister, and have a Missionary assigned to it as soon as the Presbytery's supply will admit. The arrangement made by the Presbytery in this respect should, of course, be fully recorded, and it would be advantageous to procure a separate record for all such details.

2. *The Organization of Missionary Stations and Districts.*—It is recommended that each Presbytery, after having divided and arranged their Missionary Ground according to the foregoing suggestions, take immediate steps for the visitation of the several Preaching Stations within each of the Missionary Districts, by the Ministers under whose superintendence they have been placed for the following purposes:—*First*,—To explain to the people connected with each station the division and arrangement which the Presbytery has made, as above—the exertion which the Presbytery is making to procure an adequate supply of Missionaries—and the necessity of fixed and regular contributions by the people, to procure a suitable provision for Missionaries. *Secondly*,—To organize the people connected with such stations, by superintending the election and appointment of a committee of their number, (the members of which might be ordained as Elders or Deacons, if suitably qualified,) with a Secretary and Treasurer. *Thirdly*,—To intimate to the people at each station what supplies of preaching the Minister in charge of it can give, until a Missionary can be obtained for the district. *Fourthly*,—To explain and enforce the duty of assembling for social worship and religious instruction on the Lord's day, and of contributing to the support of the Gospel.

3. *The Duties of the Office-bearers of Committees at the several Stations.*—The office-bearers or members of Committee at each station should be instructed to proceed immediately after their appointment to make up a roll of the members and adherents of the Church connected with the station—and a certain number of families having been assigned to each of them—to visit such families for the purpose of obtaining their concurrence in the arrangements of the Presbytery—and of receiving their free-will offerings to the Presbytery's Home Mission Fund—which they ought to collect at stated periods, quarterly or oftener, as may be thought expedient. In the absence of Ministers, Missionaries, or other supplies by the Presbytery, they ought also

meet with the people on the Sabbath for religious exercises, to be conducted according to such order as has been sanctioned by the superintending Minister, and to establish and conduct Sabbath Schools for the young. The Treasurer should transmit quarterly to the Presbytery's Home Mission Fund the contributions of the people, and the Secretary should furnish the Minister in charge of the station with a quarterly report, shewing the total number of souls belonging to the Presbyterian Church connected with the station—the number of contributors to the Presbytery's Home Mission Fund—the amount of contribution during the quarter—the numbers attending the meetings for worship on the vacant Sabbaths—the number of Sabbath Schools connected with the station, and the number of scholars attending—together with any further information or suggestion regarding the interests of the station or mission.

4. *Home Mission Committees and Funds.*—It is recommended that each Presbytery appoint a Committee to superintend their Home Missionary operations; and, besides Ministers and Elders, a suitable number of members of the Church should be placed on it, so that a quorum might be conveniently assembled by the Convener at all times. This Committee ought to have the charge of the Presbytery's separate Record for Home Missions, and enter in it minutes of all their proceedings—the substance of the Reports from the Station Committees, and of the Reports of Ministers and Missionaries—submitting the same at the ordinary meetings of the Presbytery for their judgment and further direction. A General Home Mission Fund should also be instituted forthwith in each Presbytery, under the charge of a Treasurer appointed by the Presbytery, by whom all contributions for that object would be received, and all disbursements made under the direction of the Committee, and a report of the state of the fund submitted to the Presbytery at their ordinary meetings. This fund would be raised and sustained, *first*—By the periodical contributions from the several stations. *Secondly*—By such Sabbath-day collections as may be made in behalf of it in the several congregations by appointment of the Synod or Presbytery. *Thirdly*—By the annual contributions of associations formed in the several congregations under the direction of the Presbytery or the Committee, and with the concurrence of the Ministers and Elders and Deacons in each case. *Fourthly*—By an annual collection made at each Preaching Station in the several Missionary Districts established within the bounds of the Presbytery.

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7. *Reports.*—Besides the Quarterly Reports by the Committees at the several stations, Presbyteries should require the Ministers in charge of the several districts, and all the Missionaries and Catechists, to keep regular journals of their Missionary services, carefully written out in

viz., Mr. Gale, Mr. Robert Reid, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Mackintosh, Mr. Rintoul.

Mr. Leishman and Mr. McMillan also adhered to the same, and took instruments and were allowed to add this explanatory clause to the first reason, "that the principle referred to is inconsistent with the Word of God and the Standards of this Church."

Mr. Redpath, at his own request, was allowed extracts of the minutes and took instruments.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee for drafting Resolutions founded on the statements and recommendations of the College Report, when a series of Resolutions was submitted by the Committee and read. Resolutions respecting College.

It was agreed to take up the consideration of these at the evening Session.

The Synod was closed with prayer.

SESSION XV.

KINGSTON,

Tuesday, 8th June,—7½, *P.M.*

The Synod met for business and was constituted with prayer.

The Synod resumed the consideration of the Resolutions on the College Report, and these having been considered *seriatim* and variously amended, were unanimously adopted. The tenour whereof follows:— Resolutions, &c., resumed.

I. That the Report be printed in the *Record*, under the direction of the College Committee with all due despatch, and circulated as extensively as possible.

II. That the Synod acknowledge through a letter from the Moderator, to the Moderator of the General Assembly of the free Church of Scotland, the obligations under which this Church has been, anew

laid to the Free Church for the seasonable mission of the Rev. Robert McCorkle of St. Ninians, Scotland, as Professor of Divinity, during last session.

III. That the Synod record their sense of the obligations under which the Church has been laid to Mr. McCorkle for his valuable labours in various departments of instruction in the College, for last session, also to the Rev. William Rintoul, for his valuable services in the department of Hebrew and Biblical Criticism, and that the Moderator tender the thanks of the Synod to these brethren.

IV. That she Synod confirm the appointment of the Rev. Alexander Gale, Principal of the Academy, as Professor of Classical Literature in Knox's College.

V. That the Synod approve of the diligence of the College Committee, in regard to the establishment of the Academy, and record their purpose to countenance and encourage it.

VI. That the Synod, in conformity with the recommendation in the Report of the college Committee, and for the reasons set forth in the said Report, viz. the provisional union of the Professorship of Theology with the pastoral office, in the first appointment of Dr. Burns to the professorship,—the increase of students requiring the undivided services of a Professor in the department of theology—and the difficulty of obtaining one, who should be nominally or really, an associate or second Professor, resolve to separate, as they hereby do separate, the Professorship of Theology in Knox's College, from the Pastorship of the congregation of Knox's Church, Toronto; and declare, that the Professor who shall be appointed, shall, for the time at least, be sole Professor of Theology.

VII. That the Synod having respect to the many services rendered to the Presbyterian Church of Canada by Dr. Burns, especially his zeal and diligence in collecting books for the Library of the College, previous to his leaving his native land, his valuable prelections to the students of Theology and his watchfulness over their spiritual interests, for two successive sessions, shall record, as they now do, their sense of the great obligations to him, under which the whole Church has been brought, and tender him their grateful acknowledgments—the Synod, regretting that from the unlooked for absence of Dr. Burns from the Province, an opportunity has not been afforded of conferring with him respecting these arrangements; the urgency of the circumstances of the college requiring, that they should be gone into without delay.

VIII. That the Synod deeply regretting that their endeavours, heretofore, to procure a Professor of Theology, have been ineffectual,

shall depute a Minister of the Church, to proceed home without delay, and confer with the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, respecting the appointment of a Profeesor, and in concurrence with said Committee, to choose a fit and proper person to be Professor of Theology. The deputy to be instructed be the Synod's College Committee, as to the terms on which the appointment shall be made, and as to the other interests of the College in particular, and the Church in general, on which he shall confer with the Colonial Committee.

IX. That the Synod call on Mr. Bayne of Galt, to undertake this mission.

X. That the College Committee be authorised in terms of the recommenndation of the Report, to procure additional assistance in the work of teaching:—the deputy to confer with the Colonial Committee on this matter, and endeavour in concurrence wish them, to procure a suitable labourer for the departments requiring to be supplemented.

XI. That from the approximated estimate of the expenditure necessary for the College, during the year on which we are now entering, as well as arrears of last year, salaries of Professors and assistants, rent of College buildings, assistance to the Academy, extension of Library, expenses of deputy and incidentals, the Church would require to raise the sum of £1200—and that the Synod now, in dependence on Divine strength, engage to endeavour to raise this sum; and that for this object the College Committee are now instructed to issue an appeal to the whole Church, on this subject, and to call on such Ministers and other agents as they may see fit, to visit and address congregations and stations on the subject, and as far as practicable to bring the claims of the College before every member and adherent of the Church.

XII. That the synod approve and adopt the recommendation of the College Committe, for the government and direction of the College by a general Committee, who, shall have, at least, three stated meetings during the year, and an acting sub-committee, with such powers as they may see meet to delegate to them.

XIII. That the General Committee shall issue such interim regulations respecting the admission of students into the College, and the course of study to be pursued, especially, defining the qualifications and acquirements that shall be sought in all applicants for admission into any of the literary and philosophical classes, and into the Divinity Hall.

XIV. That the synod recognising the great importance of providing to the utmost, for the spiritual instruction of the youths in attendance on the Academy and College, authorise the College Committee to provide such special services for the students and pupils of the Academy, on the Lord's day, as they may see fit; such arrangement to be made in concurrence with the Presbytery of the bounds.

XV. That the College Committee shall have no power over the students in regard to the appointing them to the office of Catechist; but shall simply certify to Presbyteries, any whom they may deem fit for the office.

XVI. That in any matters not provided for in the foregoing resolutions, the Committee be left to a wise discretion and the counsel of the Commission.

XVII. That as Mr. Jas. Duncan, the Student sent us by the Free Church of Scotland, has, as has been certified by the Clerk of the Presbytery of Montreal, been pursuing his studies in Theology during the last winter under the direction of said Presbytery, and with the concurrence of the College Committee, he shall be regarded as having made the same progress in the curriculum as though he had attended the Winter Session at Knox's College.

Acknowledgment of Divine goodness.

The Synod in consideration of the unanimity and zeal with which the foregoing important resolutions on the subject of the College had been discussed and adopted, resolved that, at the close of this Session thanks should be tendered unto God for this token of his favour.

The Synod appointed the following committee for the government of the College for the ensuing year :—

College Committee.

The Moderator, Mr. Rintoul (Convener), Mr. Robb, Mr. Bayne, Mr. Stark, Mr. Cheyne, Mr. Reid, Mr. Smart, Mr. Boyd, Mr. McDowell Mr. Wardrope, Mr. Johnston, Mr. Lochead, Mr. Clugston, Mr. Leishman, Mr. Henry, Dr. Burns, Mr. Esson, Mr. Harris, Mr. Gray, Mr. Gale, Ministers : Mr. Jeffery, Mr. McAlister, Hon. John McDonald, Mr. James Hall, Dr. Robert Edmondson, Mr. Durie, Mr. Redpath, Mr. McMillan, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Burns, Mr. Steen, Mr. Frazer, Elders : John McMurrich, Esq., Gen. Treasurer, Samuel Spreull, Esq. Treasurer to the Bursary Fund : the first meting to be held in Kingston, to-morrow to appoint the sub-committee.

Mr. Bayne's mission.

The Synod in conformity with the ninth resolution in the College Report, called on Mr. Bayne, through the Moderator to undertake the Mission to the Colonial Committee of the Free Church of Scotland,—Mr. Bayne was persuaded to consent to the call.—The Synod agreed that at the devotional exercises of to-morrow morning, special supplications shall be offered up to God for His protection to Mr. Bayne on his mission, and for the guidance and direction of the Spirit of grace and wisdom to him and the Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, in their choice of men who may prove faithful and effective instructors of the rising ministry of this Church.

The Synod referred the supply of Mr. Bayne's pulpit, in his absence, to the Home Mission Committee.

Thanksgiving.

This Session was closed with prayer and thanksgiving to the great Head of the Church, for the unanimity and zeal with which the resolutions respecting the College had been passed.

SESSION XVI.

KINGSTON, *9th June,*

Wednesday, 9 A. M.

The Synod met and was constituted with praise and prayer qy the Moderator.

Prayer for Mr. Bayne's mission.

In conformity with the resolution of the Synod, at the Session of last evening, prayer was offered up in behalf of Mr. Bayne and the object for which he is about to proceed to Britain.

Mr. Robb lead in this exercise.

Answer to reasons of dissent.

Mr. Reid craved permission to give in an answer to the reasons of dissent given in by Mr. Bayne, and adhered to by others, from the decision of the Synod on the reference from the Presbytery of Montreal respecting the memorial from certain parties in Cote Street Church, Montreal. Permission was granted. The answer was read and is as follows :—

In answer to the reasons of dissent, it is hereby stated on the part of Mr. Reid and those adhering, that it is not intended by

the motion to declare the traffic in intoxicating drinks, as in itself, and in all cases, sinful; or to lay down any general rule, or to establish any general test of church membership, but merely that as in certain cases the traffic is directly connected with the spread of intemperance, and to be regarded as sinful; Sessions may, in such cases, deal with the individuals and exercise discipline, not on the simple ground of the individual's being engaged in the traffic, but on the ground of any circumstances connected with each case which are plainly contrary to the duty of professing Christians. In the case specially brought under the notice of the Synod, although it was stated in the Record of the Cote Street Session, that one of the memorialists was excluded on the ground of his selling intoxicating drinks; yet, in point of fact, it was stated to the Synod that he had been dealt with and rejected on the ground of special circumstances. It seems necessary to make this statement to guard the motion from misapprehension, and set forth clearly the object and intention of it.

Mr. Wardrope and Mr. Fraser, declared their concurrence in this answer.

Respecting resolutions on Home Mission.

The Synod called for the Report of the Committee to whom the Overture respecting the prosecution of Home Missionary operations, the Report of the Home Missionary Committee, and the Overture for an Agent for the schemes of the Church had been referred.

The Report was given in by Mr. Gale, together with a series of Resolutions recommended for the adoption of the Synod.

The Report was received, and the Resolutions having been read and considered *seriatim*, and variously amended, were unanimously adopted.

The Resolutions are as follows:—

I. That the Synod adopt the following regulations, formerly issued by the Home Mission Committee, and recommend Presbyteries of the Church to use their best efforts, in conjunction with the Home Mission Committee of the Synod, to carry the same into effect within their several bounds.

1. *The Arrangement of the Missionary Field.*—The whole field of religious destitution, especially those Townships or Parishes which contain a considerable number of Presbyterians within their bounds, ought to be carefully considered by each Presbytery—and, according to the information derived from the several members or others, suitable localities ought to be deliberately chosen and fixed upon as Preaching Stations—these stations, including organized congregations that may be vacant, ought to be grouped together as Missionary Districts—and each of the districts thus formed ought to be placed under the superintendence of a Minister, and have a Missionary assigned to it as soon as the Presbytery's supply will admit. The arrangement made by the Presbytery in this respect should, of course, be fully recorded, and it would be advantageous to procure a separate record for all such details.

2. *The Organization of Missionary Stations and Districts.*—It is recommended that each Presbytery, after having divided and arranged their Missionary Ground according to the foregoing suggestions, take immediate steps for the visitation of the several Preaching Stations within each of the Missionary Districts, by the Ministers under whose superintendence they have been placed for the following purposes:—*First*,—To explain to the people connected with each station the division and arrangement which the Presbytery has made, as above—the exertion which the Presbytery is making to procure an adequate supply of Missionaries—and the necessity of fixed and regular contributions by the people, to procure a suitable provision for Missionaries. *Secondly*,—To organize the people connected with such stations, by superintending the election and appointment of a committee of their number, (the members of which might be ordained as Elders or Deacons, if suitably qualified,) with a Secretary and Treasurer. *Thirdly*,—To intimate to the people at each station what supplies of preaching the Minister in charge of it can give, until a Missionary can be obtained for the district. *Fourthly*,—To explain and enforce the duty of assembling for social worship and religious instruction on the Lord's day, and of contributing to the support of the Gospel.

3. *The Duties of the Office-bearers of Committees at the several Stations.*—The office-bearers or members of Committee at each station should be instructed to proceed immediately after their appointment to make up a roll of the members and adherents of the Church connected with the station—and a certain number of families having been assigned to each of them—to visit such families for the purpose of obtaining their concurrence in the arrangements of the Presbytery—and of receiving their free-will offerings to the Presbytery's Home Mission Fund—which they ought to collect at stated periods, quarterly or oftener, as may be thought expedient. In the absence of Ministers, Missionaries, or other supplies by the Presbytery, they ought also

meet with the people on the Sabbath for religious exercises, to be conducted according to such order as has been sanctioned by the superintending Minister, and to establish and conduct Sabbath Schools for the young. The Treasurer should transmit quarterly to the Presbytery's Home Mission Fund the contributions of the people, and the Secretary should furnish the Minister in charge of the station with a quarterly report, shewing the total number of souls belonging to the Presbyterian Church connected with the station—the number of contributors to the Presbytery's Home Mission Fund—the amount of contribution during the quarter—the numbers attending the meetings for worship on the vacant Sabbaths—the number of Sabbath Schools connected with the station, and the number of scholars attending—together with any further information or suggestion regarding the interests of the station or mission.

4. *Home Mission Committees and Funds.*—It is recommended that each Presbytery appoint a Committee to superintend their Home Missionary operations; and, besides Ministers and Elders, a suitable number of members of the Church should be placed on it, so that a quorum might be conveniently assembled by the Convener at all times. This Committee ought to have the charge of the Presbytery's separate Record for Home Missions, and enter in it minutes of all their proceedings—the substance of the Reports from the Station Committees, and of the Reports of Ministers and Missionaries—submitting the same at the ordinary meetings of the Presbytery for their judgment and further direction. A General Home Mission Fund should also be instituted forthwith in each Presbytery, under the charge of a Treasurer appointed by the Presbytery, by whom all contributions for that object would be received, and all disbursements made under the direction of the Committee, and a report of the state of the fund submitted to the Presbytery at their ordinary meetings. This fund would be raised and sustained, *first*—By the periodical contributions from the several stations. *Secondly*—By such Sabbath-day collections as may be made in behalf of it in the several congregations by appointment of the Synod or Presbytery. *Thirdly*—By the annual contributions of associations formed in the several congregations under the direction of the Presbytery or the Committee, and with the concurrence of the Ministers and Elders and Deacons in each case. *Fourthly*—By an annual collection made at each Preaching Station in the several Missionary Districts established within the bounds of the Presbytery.

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7. *Reports.*—Besides the Quarterly Reports by the Committees at the several stations, Presbyteries should require the Ministers in charge of the several districts, and all the Missionaries and Catechists, to keep regular journals of their Missionary services, carefully written out in

Mr. Wightman of Camden.

The Synod took up a reference from the Presbytery of Kingston, respecting an irregularity in the removal of Mr. Thomas Wightman from the charge of Camden to the Toronto Academy. The Synod having considered the case, agreed to express their disapprobation of the irregularity that had been committed, in not duly recognising the Presbytery of the bounds in Mr. Wightman's resignation of his charge, and instruct the Presbytery to accept his resignation and release him from the charge of Camden. The Synod also agreed that Mr. Wightman should be attached to the Presbytery of Toronto as a Minister without a charge.

Licensing Students.

The Synod agreed to instruct the College Committee to prepare a draft of regulations respecting the Licensing of Students, and submit the same to the next meeting of Synod.

Business referred to Commission.

The Synod being unable to overtake several matters reported by the Committee of Bills and Overtures, agreed to refer them to the Commission that shall be appointed.

These matters are as follows:—

1st. An Overture for promoting the Revival of Religion throughout the Church.

2nd. An Overture on the subject of Ecclesiastical Registers.

3rd. An Overture respecting arrangements for the Preaching of Ministers when assembled at Synod.

4th. An Overture for promoting a better attendance of Ministers and Elders at the meetings of Synod.

5th. A letter from the Presbytery of New Brunswick.

Members of Commission.

The Synod appointed the following members to be their Commission for the ensuing year, to attend to the matters referred to them, and watch over the general interests of the Church, viz.:

The Moderator and Clerk.

From the Presbytery of Cobourg—Mr. W. Reid, M. A. Steele, Ministers: Mr. A. Jeffrey, Mr. W. Litster, Elders.

From the Presbytery of Kingston—Mr. H. Gordon, Mr. W. Hamilton, Mr. R. Reid, Ministers: Hon. John Macdonald, Dr. Dickson, Elders.

From the Presbytery of Brockville—Mr. W. Smart, Mr. R. Boyd, Ministers: Mr. G. McNish, Mr. G. Scott, Mr. W. Martin, Elders.

From the Presbytery of Perth—Mr. W. G. Johnstone, Mr. W. Lochead, Mr. T. Wardrope, Ministers: Mr. John Durie, Mr. Thomas Nicol, Elders.

From the Presbytery of Montreal—Mr. John Clugston, Mr. S. C. Fraser, Mr. William Leishman, Ministers: Mr. John Redpath, Elder.

From the Presbytery of Hamilton—A. Ferrier, D.D., Mr. R. Robb, Mr. M. Y. Stark, Mr. J. Bayne, Mr. G. Smellie, Ministers: Mr. W. McMillan, Mr. G. Davidson, Mr. W. Millar, Elders.

From the Presbytery of Toronto—R. Burns, D.D., Mr. James Harris, Professors Esson, and Gale, Ministers: Mr. E. Steen, Mr. James Fraser, Elders.

Meetings of Commission. The Commission to have two stated meetings during the year, viz.:—at Kingston, on the first Wednesday of October, and at Toronto, on the first Wednesday of February—and not to have any adjournments, excepting such as may be made from day to day at the stated meetings—and Presbyteries are instructed to use diligence to have one or more of their Ministers at these meetings. Seven to form a quorum, of whom five shall be Ministers.

Thanks for hospitality in Kingston. The Synod agreed to record their thanks to the friends in Kingston for the Christian hospitality received at their hands by the Ministers and Elders of the Synod, during the meeting in Kingston.

Next meeting. The Synod agreed that the next meeting shall be held at Toronto, on the third Wednesday of June, 1848, to be opened with sermon by the Moderator, at the hour of 7, P. M.

The Synod was closed with singing part of the 122nd Psalm, Prayer, and the Apostolical Blessing, by the Moderator, at 3 o'clock P.M.

WILLIAM RINTOUL, A. M.,
SYNOD CLERK.

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ABSTRACT

OF THE

MINUTES OF THE SYNOD

OF THE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OF CANADA.

AT ITS SESSIONS AT TORONTO, IN 1848.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE SYNOD.

TORONTO:

1848.